Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 SIL-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SS-15 L-03 (ISO) W

-----012231Z 018702 /46

R 010208Z APR 77 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4333 INFO USLO PEKING AMEMBASSY TAIPEI AMEMBASSY TOKYO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CONFIDENTIAL HONG KONG 3678

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWTD, TW, US, CH

SUBJECT: US COMPANIES BARRED FROM CANTON FAIR

REF: 76 HONG KONG 13775

SUMMARY: UNION CARBIDE AND GENERAL ELECTRIC HAVE AGAIN BEEN DENIED INVITATIONS TO THE CANTON FIAR BECAUSE OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF CHINA ECONOMIC COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

1. HONG KONG REPS OF UNION CARBIDE AND GENERAL ELECTRIC TOLD CONGENOFF ON MARCH 31 THAT THE PRC HAD ONCE AGAIN DECLINED TO INVITE THEIR FIRMS TO THE CANTON FIAIR. AS REPORTED REFTEL, ALTHOUGH THESE FIRMS' HEAD OFFICES WERE REFUSED INVITATIONS TO THE FALL 1976 FAIR, HONG KONG REPS WERE ABLE TO GET INVITATIONS THROUGH CHINA RESOURCES COMPANY (CRC) IN HONG KONG. NEITHER REP EXPECTS TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION FROM CHINA RESOURCES THIS YEAR. IN FACT, A UNION CARBIDE OFFICIAL WAS RECENTLY SUMMONED TO CRC AND TOLD FLATLY THAT NO INVITATION WILL BE GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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UNLESS UNION CARBIDE WITHDRAWS FROM USROCEC. IF IT WERE TO WITHDRAWN, HOWEVER, AN INVITATION WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING. GE HAS NOT BEEN REFUSED DIRECTLY, BUT IS BEING GIVEN A POLITE BRUSH OFF.

2. GE REP IN HONG KONG EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT PEKING'S ATTITUDE REMAINS UNCOMPROMISING. HE HAD, HE

SAID, BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THE CHINESE ATTITUDE HAD SOFTENED CONSIDERABLY. AT THE FALL 1976 FAIR, THIS REP TOLD PRC OFFICIALS THAT IF GE HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE PRC IT WOULD DEFINITELY CHOOSE TAIWAN.

3. THE USROCEO ISSUE HAS BEEN GIVEN WIDE PLAY IN REGIONAL PAPERS, AND HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN ARE CONCERNED THAT THEIR USROCEC-RELATED PROBLEMS NOT BE PUBLICIZED. THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND SOURCES SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED. CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Subject: US COMPANIES BARRED FROM CANTON FAIR

TAGS: ETRD, TW, US, CH, UNION CARBIDE CO, GENERAL ELECTRIC CO

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